GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5515
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
PROVISION OF AIDS DRUGS BY CIPLA TO POOR COUNTRIES
M. JAGANNATH;PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Indian pharmaceutical company Cipla propose to provide the drug for AIDS at cheaper rates to the poor countries;

(b): if so, the details in this regard indicating prices etc;

(c): whether the United Nations also propose to consider this offer; and

(d): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (d): As per the information furnished by M/s. Cipla, the company has made an offer to supply the triple combination of anti-retroviral drugs, namely, Stavudine, Lamivudine and Nevirapine at a price of US $ 350 per patient per year. This offer was first made to an international NGO, Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF) fofree distribution by them to patients in certain countries in Africa and Asia. Subsequently, Cipla have extended this offer directly to certain African countries, wherever Cipla are assured that the drugs are subsequently being given free to patients. The representatives of the company have also had discussions with world bodies, viz, WHO UNAIDS and UNICEF in this regard.